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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/942,005	08/28/2001	Larry Edward Schessel	1992P07463 US09	9589

7590 08/21/2003

Siemens Corporation  
Intellectual Property Department  
186 Wood Avenue South  
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EXAMINER

FOSTER, ROLAND G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2645	

DATE MAILED: 08/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b><i>Office Action Summary</i></b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/942,005	SCHESEL, LARRY EDWARD	
<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>		
Roland G. Foster	2645		

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 August 2001 .

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                    2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## **Disposition of Claims**

4)  Claim(s) 5, 6 and 39-76 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) 5, 6, and 39-76 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)  The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a)  approved b)  disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

13)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)  All b)  Some \* c)  None of:

1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_ .  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_ . 6)  Other: \_\_\_\_ .

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

**Description of the Separate Inventions**

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Invention I: claims 5, 6, 39-42, and 66-68, drawn to method for arbitrating feature capabilities.

Invention II: claims 43-52 and 62-65, drawn to a method for blocking features based upon a trigger time.

Invention III: claims 53-61 and 69-76 drawn to a detailed method for data bit map, data table row, and logic table processing.

**Classification and Field of Search**

Invention I includes classification in class 711, subclass 151, provisions (e.g., arbitration) for assigning priority for use in handling memory access requests. The field of search for Invention I includes the various methods of mediating access to computer resources that can be construed as arbitration, that is, using an independent, third device or program that judges a

dispute or difference between the accessing resources. For example, arbitration is a widely ranging computer concept that is not only used in memory access requests, but also in channel and device arbitration. The field of search for Invention I does not include the same field of search for the remaining Inventions. For example, the field of search for Invention I does not require searching into blocking features based upon a trigger time (Invention II) or detailed methods for database schema and structure (Invention III).

Invention II includes classification in class 379, subclass 207.03, trigger activation based upon time. The field of search for Invention II does not include the same field of search for the remaining inventions. For example, the field of search for Invention II does not require a detailed search into various computer arbitration techniques (Invention I) or into the field of search for Invention III (as discussed above).

Invention III includes classification in class 707, subclass 100, database schema or structure. The field of search for Invention III does not include the field of search for Inventions I and II (as discussed above).

Separate Status in the Art

A separate field of search (as discussed above) also shows a separate status in the art (MPEP § 808.02).

The Separate Inventions are Subcombinations

Usable Together Having Separate Utility

Inventions I-III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single system and method for providing a voice portal system. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, Invention I has separate utility as system for arbitrating access to limited or differing call features in a call processing system. Invention II has separate utility as a method for triggering call features based upon time. Invention III has separate utility as a call processing system that relies upon a specific database structure. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Reasons for Requiring the Restriction

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification for the reasons given above, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for one Invention is not required for the other Inventions for the reasons given above, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter for the reasons given above, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Response

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Roland Foster whose telephone number is (703) 305-1491. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan S. Tsang, can be reached on (703) 305-4895. The fax phone number for this group is (703) 872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to customer service whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

  
Roland G. Foster  
Patent Examiner  
August 12, 2003